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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 13, 2010

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Local Water Leaders Honored for Distinguished Service *Regional Water Authority Recognizes Sandy Kozlen, Keith DeVore*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The Regional Water Authority (RWA) has presented Distinguished Service Awards to two longtime leaders on local water issues. Sanford “Sandy” Kozlen, a member of the Carmichael Water District Board of Directors, and Keith DeVore, director of the Sacramento County Department of Water Resources, received the awards at RWA’s annual holiday social on Dec. 9.

Kozlen, who has served the public in various capacities for over 50 years, has served on the Carmichael Water District board since 1996. He was honored for his dedication to addressing groundwater contamination and educating the public on the need to invest in and maintain water infrastructure.

“Sandy has dedicated his life to public service,” said Carmichael Water District General Manager Steve Nugent, who presented the award. “At every meeting, be it RWA or some other water-related organization, you will hear Sandy asking the difficult questions. His goal has always been that future generations are not burdened with the activities of past generations.”

DeVore has directed Sacramento County’s Department of Water Resources since April 2000. He is instrumental in managing the county’s groundwater and surface water resources and was honored for his leadership and participation in several strategic regional planning efforts and partnerships.

“Keith is a true visionary in the field of water resources, and he is the compelling reason that Sacramento County is considered a progressive water provider and is recognized as a leader within the water community,” Herb Niederberger, division chief for the county’s Department of Water Resources, said in presenting the award. “His involvement has spanned some of the most noteworthy accomplishments in the region, from the landmark Water Forum Agreement to the Freeport Regional Water Project and many others aimed at improving water supply reliability.”

RWA is a joint powers authority representing 22 water suppliers and affiliates in the greater Sacramento area. Its primary mission is to help its members protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources. For more information, see www.rwah2o.org.

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